

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Hawaiian Tourist Court Inventory Number: F-2-115
Address: 834 Jefferson Pike City: Knoxville Zip Code: 21758
County: Frederick USGS Topographic Map: Harpers Ferry-Va.-Md.-W.Va.
Owner: Robert Remsburg Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes
Tax Parcel Number: 65 Tax Map Number: 91 Tax Account ID Number: 290950
Project: Brunswick Crossing Development-200666892\N66902 Agency: U.S. Corps of Engineers
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)
Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☒ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

In 1936, Samuel L. Remsburg opened the Hawaiian Nite Club at 840 Jefferson. And to expand his nightclub business he opened the motor court, most likely within a few years. The motor court would have appealed to people who were too tired or drunk to keep driving after parting at the nite club, as well as people traveling along old US 340 as there were few accommodations along such highways in the 1930's and 1940's. A local informant said the motor court was popular with people driving to Charles Town, W. Va. to go to the horse track.

Contemporary postcards show four well maintained gable roofed units in a L-shape complex. Built of large red tile blocks, the units closest to the highway each had two cross gables above the entrances to the units and the two units farther back and parallel to the road had a single, but wider cross gable supported by piers in the case of 834 Jefferson. This unit also had larger windows and was most likely the office and residence of the motor court manager. In the postcards there is a row of hedges along the highway with several plantings behind the hedge. Also there is a landscaped green in front of the cabins. All of the landscaping, including the motel sign(s) have been removed. And all the units are in poor condition, with only 834 Jefferson being occupied. Several units are missing front doors, the interiors have been wrecked, and portions of the roofs have collapsed.

Despite the poor condition of the individual units, the complex conveys the original architectural design, landscape relationships. This property has sufficient integrity of the buildings and grounds (a circular driveway running by each unit) to convey the property's significance as a rare example of the early motor court popular, especially before World War II along well-traveled roads, such as this road between Harpers Ferry, W.Va. and Frederick, MD.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None
Comments: _____

Jonathan Sayer
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/10/07

Date

[Signature]
Reviewer, NR Program

7/5/07

Date

200701971

F-2-115

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

Overall Historic Context for Brunswick Region (in which Hawaiian Tourist Court is located)

While European exploration, including surveying and purchasing of land, of western Maryland dates to the first decades of the 18th century, the area that is present-day Frederick County remained unsettled until about the 1730's, except for native tribes. The Proprietary Letter of 1732 encouraged settlement by farmers by offering large tracts with payment deferred for three years, and Frederick County in the period from 1730 to 1805 has been characterized by historians as undergoing "agrarian intensification." These early settlers were Pennsylvania Germans and these Protestants were subsequently joined by smaller numbers of English Catholics. According to the Frederick County Historic Plan (also the source of later quotes), "The amalgam of German and English influences is a characteristic of Western Maryland houses of the early and mid 18th century and some of its features, such as the hillside siting and a functional interior spatial disposition persisted through most of the 19th century."

In the late 18th century, Frederick County farmers had limited success with tobacco growing due to stony soil and the cost of transporting tobacco to coastal ports. So the farmers raised other crops.

Frederick County was formed from part of Prince George's County in 1748, three years after Frederick Town was platted. The town grew rapidly and was the second largest Maryland town in the late 18th century and in the same period Frederick was the state's second largest county.

The French and their native allies' victory over the British and colonial troops in the French-Indian War in the mid-1750's temporarily slowed growth in Frederick County, out of fear of Indian attacks, but growth due to new settlers resumed by the mid-1760's.

In 1776, Montgomery (on the east) and Washington (on the west) counties were carved out of Frederick County.

During the same period --- during the Revolutionary War --- industries such as iron forges and foundaries and glass blowing were established in the county and spurred economic and population growth. By 1794 there were also 20 mills, one saw mill, one forge and one glass works in the county.

In 1790 Frederick County counted 26,937 whites, 213 free blacks, and 3,641 slaves. Sixty years later, the county had 33,314 whites, 2777 free blacks, and 3913 slaves. While the number of free blacks increased dramatically, as it did throughout all of Maryland, Frederick was one of the few counties that showed an increase in the number of slaves. From the late 18th century through the Civil War, Frederick County citizens were of divided loyalties.

In 1805 construction on the National Road through Frederick had been initiated and other turnpikes were undertaken to provide better roads from Frederick to Harper's Ferry and other outlying towns. Improvement in roads coupled with improved farm machinery, such as threshers and reapers, enabled large scale movement of farm products from Frederick County to the east, and manufactured goods were shipped west from the eastern towns/cities and ports to the farmers.

The most dramatic improvements to shipping farm goods and finished goods occurred with the construction of the C & O along the Potomac River and the B & O Railroad, roughly paralleling the National Road.

The railroad and canal both arrived in Brunswick (originally Berlin) in 1834, but very quickly the railroad became the dominant mover of produce and the other products between the various Frederick county mills and towns and the more eastern towns and cities. Despite the canal's initial success and economic influence it rapidly lost out to the railroad. To quote "A Walking tour of Historic Brunswick": "C & O Canal Lock No. 30. Two interpretive markers tell the story of early industry based on water power, that drew people to this area. The mills- such as C.F. Werner's- formed the nucleus around which Berlin grew... Lock No. 30 is dry now. No longer do coal-laden canal boats 'lock down' as the gates opened to let water out and lower the boat on its journey east, or 'lock up' on the return trip." Again quoting the "Walking tour" booklet: "Brunswick prides itself as a railroad town. In many ways, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad built the Brunswick you see today. However, the B&O tracks didn't arrive in town until 1834, and the big expansion of the railyard here- which made the B&O the town's largest employer for years - didn't happen until 1890 and again in 1905-06."

In 1850 the Bond Map showed the well-developed railroad and canal along with major north-south roads leading from Brunswick and its northern neighbor of Knoxville. The road that terminated at Knoxville ran east to Frederick and was from at least from the late 18th century known as Jefferson Pike or later US 340 and now MD 180. Through the 19th century and into the late 20th century it was the popular route for people traveling from Frederick and other parts of Maryland to West Virginia, especially Harper's Ferry and Charles Town. A few miles north of Brunswick the road cut through the small town of Petersville as did the other east- west route from Brunswick, which is Rt 17 or Petersville Road. While the houses along Petersville Rd. are more recent, at best early 20th century, several farms and farmsteads along Jefferson Pike (closest to Knoxville), for example the Deaver Farmstead, are at least as old as mid-19th century. A disjointed road runs between Petersville Road and Jefferson Pike and this road is approximated by the present Burkittsville Rd.

During the Civil War, two major battles took place in Frederick County, and Frederick Town was occupied at various times by Confederate and Union armies, and it was a hospital center throughout the war. Marauding troops, supposedly mostly Confederate raided farms, stealing food and animals.

After the Civil War, economic growth restarted, spurred by the use of newly available steam powered farm equipment. But only the more affluent farmers could afford this equipment or the gas powered tractors that became more common in the 20th century.

Starting in the 1870's, "in the industrial/urban dominance period, the most important agricultural development was the change from grains, produce, and livestock to dairy products for other than domestic use...The major events in agricultural and industrial development from 1870 to the 1920's had visible effects on the physical structure of farmsteads, villages, and towns. The use of steam, and later, gasoline-powered agricultural equipment required shelters in the farmsteads to protect the machinery. These were usually small frame sheds, often with open side for ease of access. Equipment sheds were sometimes attached to existing sheds, bank barns, and other buildings." Other buildings that were built were pull-through wagon shed/corn crib and silos, which became common by the 1890's. Creameries for the sanitary handling of milk also started to appear in the late 19th century.

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Continuation Sheet No. 2

In the late 19th to early 20th century, the variety of revival domestic architectural styles popular throughout the country were built in Frederick County or existing buildings were renovated to reflect newest styles. Sears Mail Order houses were common because the extensive network of railroads made it possible to bring the pre-cut and numbered lumber to the most isolated farm. In addition to other styles popular in the late 19th and early 20th century, the four-square caught on in Frederick County. "In the early 20th century, the Four Square house, with a generally square or rectangular plan topped by a hipped or pyramidal roof, became increasingly popular across the nation. Easily built and convenient to extend or embellish with porches, dormers, porte cocheres, and wings, the Four Square single dwelling and duplex house became a familiar part of the County's architectural scene. Bungalows achieved a modest showing, principally in or near the towns, but occasionally occurring in rural locations as well. The Four Square, with its usually full-height second story, was marginally more popular than the bungalow in farmsteads for new or replacement dwellings, but neither type was built in large numbers in the rural landscape." Concrete block construction was introduced in the 20th century as was electricity.

Of course the Depression slowed severely the economy, which only revived with the Second World War. Aside from military camps in the county, there was little building during the war. After World War II and the Korean War, major highway projects started throughout the country and effected roads in Frederick County. There was also a national shift from agriculture and fields were lost to highways and housing subdivisions. "Subdivisions began to appear at the edges of Frederick City, and both Brunswick and Frederick City began a series of annexations in the late 1960's." In 1970, Jefferson Pike was supplanted by a modern divided highway just north of it.

In sum, the history of Frederick County is that of a rural, agrarian county strongly affected by major transportation modes. At the local level the influence of transportation routes was even greater and the agrarian quality perhaps faded a little bit earlier. In Brunswick and surrounding areas, the strong rural, agrarian quality persisted into the late 1960's, but the impact of the B&O Railroad, with its roundhouse and other major structures at Brunswick, and to a lesser degree the C & O Canal and manufacturing in Brunswick had more influence than industry or commerce probably had in other rural parts of Frederick County. While the outlying areas of Brunswick did not develop commercially or even residentially the way Brunswick did, there was the spread of railroad worker housing north from Brunswick and by the early 20th century housing communities were planned for middle or perhaps even upper class people who worked or owned companies in Brunswick. After World War II the agrarian nature of the Brunswick region was seriously altered first by the construction of largely brick one story residences for people who commuted not only to Brunswick but to much more distant work sites. This erosion of the farm setting was further seriously undermined by the construction in 1970 of the new divided highway which cut through what had previously been farm land. Also, Jefferson Pike, as a major connector between Frederick and Harper's Ferry and Charles Town (especially its race track), starting in the 19th century, developed as a mix of farmsteads with some fine 19th century homesteads and transportation related buildings such as the two motor courts and night club at the northern end of Jefferson Pike in the Brunswick Region.

Prepared by: William Lebovich

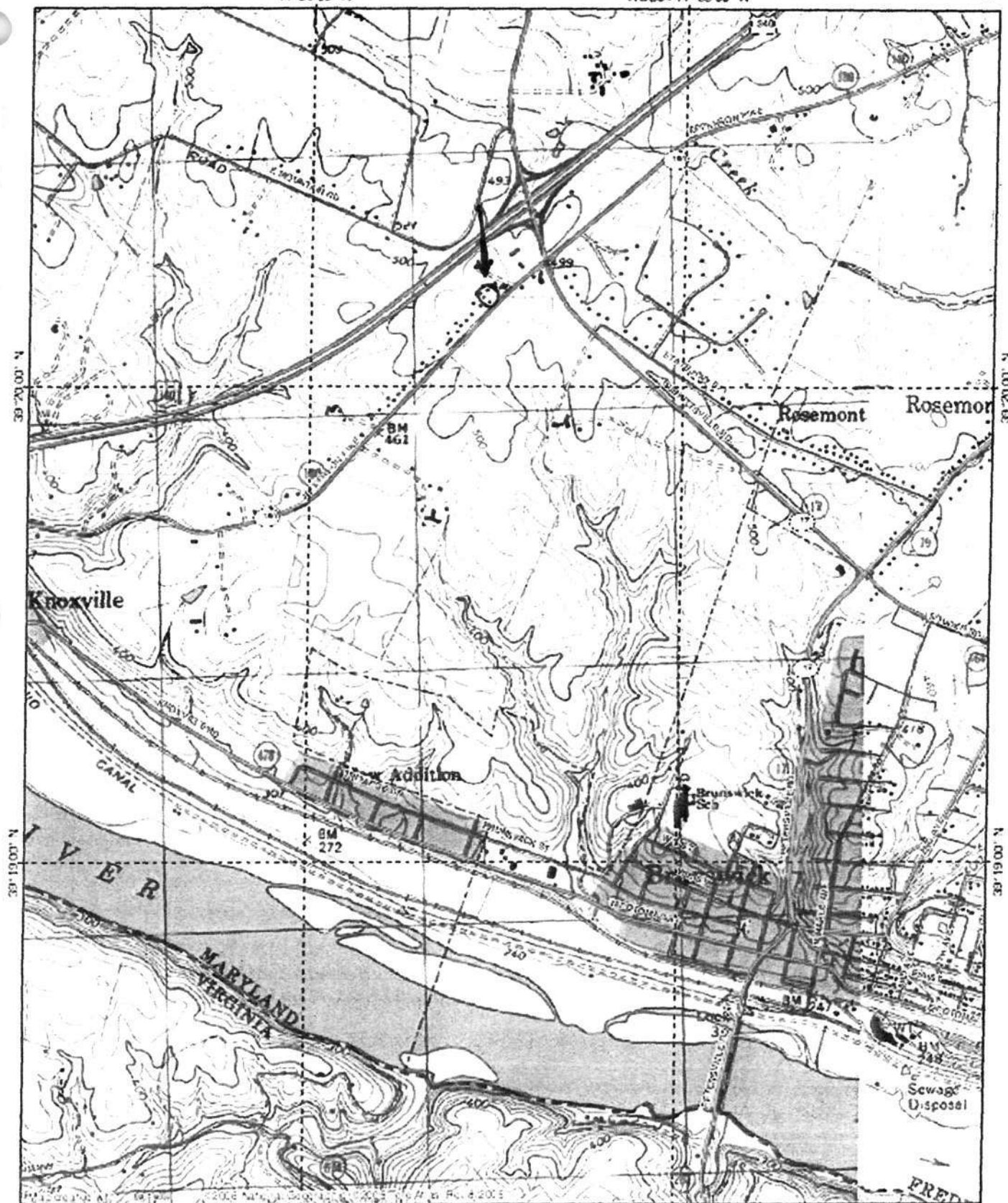
Date Prepared: February 2007

F-2-115
834 Jefferson
Pike

TOPO map printed on 02/15/07 from 11/01/06

77°39'00" W

WGS84 77°38'00" W



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

USGS Harpers
Ferry-
Va.-Md.-
W. Va.



834 Jefferson
Pike

Knoxville
Frederick Co.
Md.

Bill Lebevil,
Dec 2006



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